



## CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEADERS PUSH FOR PARTICIPATION IN 2010 CENSUS**

Sacramento, CA - A coalition of local, state, and federal elected officials, community leaders, and state and federal department representatives convened a press conference in Sacramento this morning to urge Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) and the greater community to participate in the 2010 Census count. This press event was part of a statewide press effort convened by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the California Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (APILC), API Counts and the United States Census Bureau to encourage a complete count of API communities in California.

"Participating in the 2010 Census provides Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) a very real opportunity to continue and grow our rich history in the United States," said Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D – South Los Angeles County), chair of the API Legislative Caucus. "Being counted in the 2010 Census effort ensures that our community will be represented, and that our community needs are heard and addressed by our nation's leaders."

Starting March 15, 2010, over 130 million households will receive Census forms for the 2010 Census. In 1990, the United State Census Bureau counted over 6.2 million APIs in the United States, and this population increased by over 3.3 million people in 2000. Currently, the American Community Survey estimates that the API population in California has reached 5 million people, making up 14 percent of the state's total population.

"As a former national Census 'campaign' staffer during the 1980 Census, I am an ardent supporter of an accurate and fair count of all U.S. residents," stated Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D – Davis), member of the Assembly Select Committee on the Census. "Every person missed reduces opportunities for representative democracy, and forfeits critical federal dollars for state and local governments."

APIs are one of the fastest growing communities in the United States, and it is imperative for APIs to represent their community in the 2010 Census. The Census shapes voting districts and can determine whether communities are fairly represented in local, state, and federal races. In addition, the Census serves as a reflection of a region's population and will determine the number of representatives a State will have in Congress.

"The Census is an important component of our political system, which helps determine federal funding levels to support our community's needs," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA). "It is critical that Sacramento families participate in this simple survey, taking ten minutes out of their day to complete their Census form. With everyone's participation, together we can ensure that Sacramento receives its fair share of federal funding for critical programs."

The Census guides the federal government on how to best distribute funds throughout the nation. More than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local, and tribal governments based on the Census count. Every person who goes uncounted loses more than \$14,000 in funding for important public services such as schools, housing, health care, job training, economic development and other vital services for the community.

"An accurate count is crucial for organizations like Asian Resources, who serve our immigrant and refugee communities, to provide the many vital resources and programs which connect our residents to self-sufficiency and get them on the path to realizing the American dream," said Elaine Abelaye, executive director of Asian Resources Inc.

For more information regarding the 2010 Census, please go to [www.apicount.com](http://www.apicount.com) and <http://2010.census.gov>.